



Department of Justice

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DAYTON COMPANY PLEADS GUILTY TO ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

Multi-Service, Inc. bypassed pre-treatment system for wastewater

DAYTON – Multi-Service, Inc. (MSI) and company President Melvin Tatman pled guilty in United States District Court here today to violating federal environmental laws in connection with their handling of wastewater from the company's laundry operations. The company also admitted to illegal transportation of hazardous waste.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Penelope Prochazka, Special Agent in Charge, United States Environmental Protection Agency Criminal Investigation Division; Joseph Koncelik, Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; John Monce, Superintendent, Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, and Attorney General Jim Petro announced the pleas entered today before United States District Judge Thomas M. Rose.

MSI, located at 1962 Radio Road in Dayton, is a textile cleaning facility with two separate components: an industrial laundry facility and a dry cleaning operation. The industrial laundering operation produces wastewater which includes heavy metals, waste oil, and organic chemicals.

Count one charges the company and Tatman with knowingly violating a pretreatment standard of the Clean Water Act. Counts two and three charge them with negligently violating pretreatment standards. Count four charges the company with transporting hazardous waste without a hazardous waste manifest, in violation of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

The company can face a fine of twice the gain to the company or up to \$500,000, whichever is greater, for counts one and four and \$100,000 for counts two and three. Tatman faces a prison term of up to three years and a fine of up to \$500,000 for count one and one year imprisonment and a fine of up to \$100,000 for counts two and three.

According to a statement of facts filed with the plea agreements, covert sampling revealed that Multi-Service's discharges in March 2003, and again in May 2003, did not meet discharge standards established by the City of Dayton. Specifically, the discharge was too acidic

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at times (which can cause corrosion of sewer pipes) and at other times, was flammable, posing a risk of explosion.

Additionally, on May 17, 2002, a routine inspection of MSI's pretreatment system by the City of Dayton revealed a bypass of the pretreatment system. The City had been advised by the company that the bypass had been eliminated in May of 2001. Officials padlocked the bypass.

In May 2003, MSI and Tatman tried to have their hazardous waste sludge hauled away to a landfill that was not permitted to accept hazardous waste. The load was rejected by the landfill when it was tested and found to be hazardous. Again, in June 2003, Tatman and MSI tried to ship hazardous waste to another landfill not permitted to take hazardous waste, this time, without a hazardous waste manifest, and the load was rejected.

"The company was given many opportunities to clean up its act, literally," Lockhart said. "We have the criminal tools to punish companies that continue to violate federal environmental protection laws, and we will use them."

Lockhart commended the cooperative investigation by agents from the U.S. and Ohio Environmental Protection Agencies, the Ohio Attorney General's Office, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Brad Beeson and Laura Clemmens, who prosecuted the case.

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